

Scientific Review Evaluation Award (SREA) Transition Issue Paper

I. Issue.

The Office of Management Assessment (OMA) conducted a study to determine whether the existing SREA program has adequate internal controls and whether the program operates effectively. Results of the study indicated that internal controls for oversight and accountability are inadequate. Based on these results, NIH senior staff has formed a SREA Transition team tasked with implementing the following recommendations by October 1, 2005.

- Centralized management and payment
- Flat rate reimbursement
- Payment to grant reviewers through electronic funds transfer (EFT).

II. Background.

Chairman grants have been used since 1946 by NIH to fund expenses associated with reviewing grant applications. Funds are managed via 53 checking accounts at the NIH Credit Union. Thirteen ICs forward vouchers to CSR for processing while 11 manage individual funds and checking accounts.

III. Impact.

IMPAC II/Committee Management (CM) supports the existing SREA process via the voucher subsystem, the check register module, and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) upload procedure. In order to implement the recommendations above, modules will have to be modified as well as the addition of CAN to the CM data model. A summary of phase 1 modifications is shown below.

- Allow selection of CAN when a meeting is marked complete, i.e., location set, roster complete. Note reviewers will need to register with Central Contractor Registration (CCR).
- Display CAN on voucher screen.
- Create an obligation record for NBS/OFM containing reviewer name, vendor number, CAN, amount to be paid.
- After the meeting, forward a payee list to the AO for issue of payment.

IV. Cost.

Preliminary level of effort (LOE) = 265 hours (from development). Note that requirements analysis is not complete and the IMPAC II subcommittee has not finalized the vision. See detailed estimates below.

Feature Name	Developer	Tester	Acceptance Tester	Contract PM	Requirements	Bus Analyst	Architecture	TOM	
Allow selection of CAN when a meeting is created (CM1050).	40	31	16	9	20	3	4	9	
Include a CAN indicator in CM data model (to facilitate the LOV of CANs for a committee).	20	20	10	6	10	1	2	6	
Display CAN on the Voucher/ADB screen (CM1054).	40	7	4	2	20	3	4	2	
For all the vouchers validated on a given day, create a file for NBS/OFM.	115	47	23	14	58	7	12	14	
Create a new payee list report.	50	34	17	20	30	8	30	40	
	265	139	70	52	138	21	52	72	807

V. Constraints.

- CM is currently in containment as a result of J2EE migration. Estimated production pilot is July 2005.

VI. Proposed Timeline (Assumes development on CM client server).

1. April 28 – deliver vision document
2. May 13 – completion of requirements
3. May 19 – CCB
4. May 30 through July 29 – Development
5. August 1 through August 30 – Testing
6. September 9 - Deployment

VII. Options.

- Implement modifications in CM J2EE after July 2005. (high risk for 10/2005 deadline).
- Implement modifications in CM Client/Server and follow with changes to J2EE (high cost and least risk).
- Utilize NSF flat rate system (high risk – extensive analysis and feasibility of integration needed).

VIII. Next Steps.

- Finalize vision to include management of expectations from stakeholders, i.e., OFM, OFACP, CSR, SREA Transition committee.
- Complete requirements analysis.